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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03
TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01
OMB-01 OIC-02 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 OES-07 ACDA-07
/149 W
----------311314Z 003514 /43
R 310716Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8162
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USUN NEW YORK 585
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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USUN FOR GLAZER

PARIS ALSO FOR USMISSION TO OECD BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USMISSION TO EC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNDP, TCDC, EAID, OCON
SUBJECT: TCDC REGIONAL MEETING FOR WEST ASIA - WRAP UP REPORT

REF: (A) STATE 123862 (NOTAL, (B) KUWAIT 2904 (NOTAL),
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(C) STATE 111553 (NOTAL), (D) STATE 103430 (NOTAL).

SUMMARY: DELEGATES FROM 11 MEMBERS OF ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR WEST ASIA (ECWA), NUMBER WEST AND EAST EUROPEAN
COUNTRIES, CYPRUS, PAKISTAN, TURKEY, USSR, AND US, PLUS
PLETHORA OF REPS FROM UN AND ARAB SPECIALIZED AGENCIES,
SPENT MAY 24 THROUGH MAY 29 GENERATING GREAT DEAL OF

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VERBIAGE BUT NOT MUCH OF SUBSTANCE ON SUBJECT OF
TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTIES (TCDC).
ALTHOUGH FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS WERE DRAFTED
SOLELY BY ECWA MEMBERS, OUR FEARS AND THOSE OF EEC COUNTRIES
THAT THIS WOULD LEAD TO UNACCEPTABLE RESOLUTIONS
(REF B), PROVED UNFOUNDED. ONE OF EARLY DRAFT RECOM-
MENDATIONS OBTAINED BY US DELEGATE CONTAINED TROUBLE-
SOME LANGUAGE CALLING ON DC'S TO REMOVE LEGISLATIVE
RESTRICTIONS AGAINST TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY TO LDC'S.
HOWEVER, AFTER OUR DEMARCHE TO CHIEF OF DRAFTING
COMMITTEE LATE MAY 28, THIS LANGUAGE WAS DROPPED IN
FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS PRESENTED AND ADOPTED MORNING
MAY 29. SINCE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF CONFERENCE
LIMITED TO BLAND EXHORTATIONS FOR CLOSER TECHNICAL
COOPERATION, US DELEGATE JOINED EEC COLLEAGUES IN NOT
OBJECTING TO EITHER RECOMMENDATIONS OR REPORT.
DETAILED FINAL REPORT OF CONFERENCE DELIBERATIONS AND
CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS, PLUST TEXTS OF NUMEROUS
SPEECHES AND PAPERS GIVEN BY VARIOUS PARTICIPANTS
BEING POUCHED JUNE 1 TO IO/DHP FOR GLAZER. END SUMMARY.

1. PARTICIPATION AND COORDINATION: THROUGHOUT MEETINGS
US DELEGATE, EMBASSY ECON CHIEF BUCK, COORDINATED
CLOSELY WITH EEC REPS. EVENING BEFORE CONFERENCE
BEGAN, REPRESENTATIVES OF BELGIUM AND NTHERLANDS WERE
LED TO BELIEVE THAT PLO WOULD ATTEND MEETING ON SAME
BASIS AS ECWA MEMBERS AND OTHER COUNTRIES. THIS LED
TO CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION WITH DUTCH ASKING FOR INSTRUCTIONS
AND BELGIANS AND FRENCH NOT REGISTERING TO ATTEND
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CONFERENCE UNTIL AFTER OPENING. DUTCH APPARNTLY
NEVER RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS AND DID NOT REGISTER AS
PARTICIPANT. AS IT TURNED OUT, PLO WAS SEATED AS AN
OBSERVER (REF B) AND PLO REP AWNI M. BATTASH ATTENDED
ONLY THE OPENING SESSION OF CONFERENCE MAY 24.
PLAESTINIAN ISSUES DID NOT ARISE AT CONFERENCE.

2. IN EARLY SPEECHES, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ARAB
FUND FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (AFESD) AND
CYPRUS ASKED SOME PENETRATING QUESTIONS ABOUT
PRECISELY HOW TCDC WAS SUPPOSED TO WORK, WHO WOULD FUND
IT AND WHAT THE ROLE UF UNDP AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
WAS SUPPOSED TO BE. QUESTIONS RASIED COULD HAVE LED
TO CONSIDERATION OF SOME SORT OF NEW ORGANIZATION OR
CONSIDERABLE STRENGTHENING OF ECWA. KUWAIT DELEGATION
MADE CLEAR THAT KUWAIT, THE HOST FOR THE CONFERENCE,
WAS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT SETTING UP ANY MORE INSTITUTIONS.
DISCUSSIONS THEN BECAME BOGGED DOWN WITH LONG-
WINDED INTERVENTIONS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF 13 UN AND

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8 MULTI-LATERAL ARAB ORGANIZATIONS ATTENDING CONFERENCE.
RESULT WAS MUCH ORGANIZATIONAL SELF-JUSTIFICATION ON
PART OF LATTER SPEAKERS AND LITTLE DISCUSSION OF
FINANCING SPECIFIC NEW ACTIVITIES OR OTHER POSSIBLY
CONTENTIOUS ISSUES. NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER
REFERRED TO BY YUGOSLAVIA DURING OPENING SESSION ALSO
DESAPPEARED FROM DEBATE. UNDP ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR
STIG ANDERSEN PROVED HELPFUL BY EMPHASIZING THAT TCDC IS
BEST LOOKED AT AS A PHILOSPHY WHICH SHOULD PERVADE
ALL THE ACTIVITIES OF ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH
DEVELOPMENT RATHER THAN AS A JUSTIFICATION FOR SETTING
UP NEW BUREACRATIC ORGANISMS.

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ACTION IO-14

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3. US DELEGATE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS OUR POSITION
OUTLINED REF A, C AND D IN VARYING DETAIL WITH ANDERSEN,
ECWA SECRETARY GENERAL MOHAMMED SAID AL-ATTAR, EGYPTIAN
PLANNING MINISTER AND ECWA/TCDC CONFERENCE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL
MEGUID, CONFERENCE CHARIMAN (AND KUWAIT FOREIGN MINISTRY
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ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR) AMBASSADOR SADDAH, AND
KUWAIT DELEGATION HEAD AND CONFERENCE ORGANIZER NAIMA
SHAYJI. ALL WERE QUITE RECEPTIVE TO US POSITION AND
RESULTS OF CONFERENCE INDICATED THAT THEY SUCCEEDED IN
AVOIDING DISCUSSION NIEO, PREFERENCES AND OTHER
POTENTIALLY CONTENTIOUS ISSUES. ANDERSEN TOLD US
DELEGATE THAT KUWAIT CONFERENCE, IN HIS VIEW, WAS THE
MOST PRODUCTIVE OF THE FOUR REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSION
CONFERENCES HELD.

4. ONE POSSIBLE PROBLEM AROSE MAY 28 WHEN US DELEGATE
OBTAINED COPY OF DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS BEING CONSIDERED
BY ECWA DRAFTING COMMITTEE. PARAGRAPH 11 OF DRAFT
CALLED ON DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO "TRANSFER ALL FORMS
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND, IN PARTICULAR, OF
ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY....TO OTHER DEVLOPING COUNTRIES
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY INTER-
NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, UNCTAD AND THE GROUP OF "".
DCS WERE CALLED UON TO DO THIS "BY REMOVING THE RESTRICTIONS
IMPOSED THEREON UNDER EXISTING LEGISLATION IN THE
DEVLOPED COUNTRIES". WEST GERMAN AND UK DELEGATES
AGREED WITH US DELEGATE THAT WORDING OF SUCH A RECOMMENDATION
COULD CAUSE US DIFFICULTIES BECAUSE OF 1)
REFERENCE TO ALL RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY UNCTAD AND THE
GROUP OF 77 AND 2) CALLING FOR REPEAL OF LEGISLATION
IN OUR RESPECTIVE COUNTIRES COVERING ALL ADVIANCED
TECHNOLOGY, WHICH COULD INCLUDE, FOR EXAMPLE, ATOMIC
TECHNOLOGY. US DELEGATE REAISED THESE CONCERNS WITH
CHAIRMAN OF DRAFTING COMMITTEE, EGYPTIAN PLANNING
MINISTER MEGUID, EVENING OF MAY 28. MORNING OF 29TH,
HIS ASSISTANT GAVE US COPY OF REVISED RECOMMENDATIONS
WITH COMMENT "I THINK YOU WILL LIKE THEM". PARAGRAPH
IN QUESTION HAD BEEN CHANGED TO DROP "THE"BEFORE
RESOLUTIONS, MAKING REFERENCE TO UNCTAD AND GROUP OF 77
RESOLUTIONS MORE GENERAL AND LESS EXCLUSIVE. REFERENCE
TO REMOVAL OF DC COUNTRY RESTRICTIONS ON TECHNOLOGY
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TRANSFER HAD BEEN DROPPED.

5. ALTHOUGH NOT MEMBERS OF ECWA, BOTH TURKEY AND EGYPT
SHOWED UP IN SURPRISING STRENGTH. EGYPTIAN PLANNING
MINISTER MEGUID LITERALLY WROTE MOST OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS.
FOUR-MAN TURKISH DELEGATION FROM ANKARA WAS LED
BY FOREIGN MINISTRY ECONOMIC EFFAIRS DIRECTOR
METIN KARACA, WHO EMPHASIZED THAT ALTHOUGH TURKEY WAS
A MEMBER OF ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE, IT FLET
ITSLF VERY MUCH A PART OF ECWA REGION AND WISHED TO
COOPERATE MOST CLOSELY WITH COUNTRIES IN THE AREA.
RUSSIANS AND THEIR FRIENDS, THE IRAQIS AND SOUTH
YEMENIS, WERE REMARKABLY QUIET, THE RUSSIANS MAKING NO
COMMENT AT ALL THROUGHOUT MEETINGS AND THE IRAQIS AND
SOTH YEMENIS CONFING THEMSELVES TO BLAND TECHNICAL
QUESTIONS. WHELE MANY DELEGATIONS CALLED FOR MORE
TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, BOTH
KUWAIT AND NORTH YEMEN EMPHASIZED THAT THIS SHOULD NOT
IN ANY WAY SERVE AS JUSTIFICATION FOR ANY REDUCTION IN
ASSISTANCE FROM THE DEVLOPED COUNTRIES. YEMEN'S INTER-
EST IN SAYING THIS WAS OBVIOUS, BEING A MAJOR AID
RECIPIENT. KUWAIT APPEARS TO HAVE DOE SO OUT OF CONCERN
THAT DEVLOPED COUNTRIES WOULD USE TCDC AS A JUSTICIATION
FOR FURTHER SHIFTING OF THE AID DONOR ROLE TO RICH
LDCS SUCH AS KUWAIT.
SUTHERLAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, MEETING REPORTS, MEETINGS, TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KUWAIT02982
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770193-0148
Format: TEL
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977053/aaaaacif.tel
Line Count: 251
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Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 123862, 77 KUWAIT 2904
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2415139
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TCDC REGIONAL MEETING FOR WEST ASIA - WRAP UP REPORT
TAGS: TECH, EAID, OCON, XX, XF, UNDP, ECWA, TCDC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/32d1428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
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Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009